

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

1 1. A weight adjustable rodent trap, comprising:

2 a housing having a bottom wall and a top wall and defining an interior space;

3 a ramp extending substantially between said bottom and top walls at an oblique angle,

4 said ramp situated to define an entry opening adjacent said top wall so as to

5 enable a rodent to enter into said interior space through said entry opening after

6 ascending said ramp;

7 a platform fixedly mounted to said ramp adjacent said entry opening and extending into

8 said interior space in a horizontal configuration, said platform having at least one

9 metallic element situated thereon;

10 a trip board pivotally mounted in said interior space and movable between a set

11 configuration atop said platform and a tripped configuration rotated relative to

12 said platform, said trip board having a magnet positioned thereon that is

13 magnetically attracted to said at least one metallic element for biasing said trip

14 board toward said set configuration until a weight of said rodent is placed upon a

15 portion of said trip board to cause said trip board to move to said tripped

16 configuration; and

17 means in said interior space beneath said trip board for containing said rodent, said

18 rodent being deposited into said containing means when said trip board is moved

19 to said tripped configuration by said rodent's weight thereon.

1 2. The rodent trap as in claim 1 wherein:
2 said platform defines a plurality of platform grooves spaced apart along said platform,
3 each platform groove having a configuration for removably receiving said at least
4 one metallic element; and
5 said trip board defines a plurality of trip board grooves spaced apart along another
6 portion of said trip board, each of said trip board grooves corresponding to a
7 respective platform groove and having a configuration for removably receiving
8 said magnet.

1 3. The rodent trap as in claim 1 wherein said containing means includes a
2 container positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited
3 into said container when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board
4 causing said trip board to move from said set configuration to said tripped configuration.

1 4. The rodent trap as in claim 3 wherein said ramp is pivotally coupled to said
2 bottom wall and movable between a closed configuration enabling said rodent to ascend said
3 ramp and an open configuration for enabling user access to said container, said container
4 being removable from said interior space when said ramp is at said open configuration.

1 5. The rodent trap as in claim 4 further comprising means for selectively locking
2 said ramp in said closed configuration.

1 6. The rodent trap as in claim 1 wherein said containing means is a glue strip
2 positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited onto said
3 glue strip when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board and said
4 trip board is moved from said set configuration to said tripped configuration.

1 7. The rodent trap as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 a plurality of probes pivotally mounted in said interior space above said trip board, said
3 plurality of probes being movable between a first configuration extending
4 substantially between said top wall and said trip board and a second configuration
5 rotatably displaced from said first configuration, said plurality of probes having
6 sharp tips, respectively;
7 whereby said plurality of probes are rotated from said first configuration to said second
8 configuration by forward movement of said rodent and said rodent is discouraged
9 from reversing course by said sharp tips.

1 8. The rodent trap as in claim 7 further comprising a stop member mounted in
2 said interior space adjacent said plurality of probes for preventing said plurality of probes
3 from rotating toward said entry opening, whereby to prevent said rodent from reversing
4 course and escaping after first engaging said plurality of probes.

1 9. The rodent trap as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 a side wall oppositely disposed from said ramp, said side wall having a panel that is
3 removable from said side wall so as to provide selective access to said interior
4 space;
5 a bait container removably mounted to an interior surface of said panel; and

6 wherein said top wall and said side wall define a plurality of apertures for enabling a
7 scent from said bait container to escape from said housing.

1 10. The rodent trap as in claim 1 further comprising a handle coupled to said top
2 wall of said housing for carrying said housing.

1 11. The rodent trap as in claim 1 wherein an outer surface of said ramp includes
2 a carpet layer.

1 12. A weight adjustable rodent trap, comprising:
2 a housing having a bottom wall and a top wall and defining an interior space;
3 a ramp extending substantially between said bottom and top walls at an oblique angle,
4 said ramp situated to define an entry opening adjacent said top wall so as to
5 enable a rodent to enter into said interior space through said entry opening after
6 ascending said ramp;
7 a platform fixedly mounted to said ramp adjacent said entry opening and extending into
8 said interior space in a horizontal configuration, said platform having a metallic
9 element situated thereon;
10 means for selectively positioning said metallic element on said platform;
11 a trip board pivotally mounted in said interior space and movable between a set
12 configuration atop said platform and a tripped configuration rotated relative to
13 said platform, said trip board having a magnet positioned thereon;
14 means for selectively positioning said magnet on said trip board, whereby said magnet
15 is magnetically attracted to said metallic element for biasing said trip board
16 toward said set configuration until a weight of said rodent is placed upon a
17 portion of said trip board causing said trip board to move to said tripped
18 configuration;
19 means in said interior space beneath said trip board for containing said rodent, said
20 rodent being deposited into said containing means when said trip board is moved
21 to said tripped configuration by said rodent's weight thereon;
22 a plurality of probes pivotally mounted in said interior space above said trip board, said
23 plurality of probes being movable between a first configuration extending
24 substantially between said top wall and said trip board and a second configuration
25 rotatably displaced from said first configuration; and

means for biasing said plurality of probes toward said first configuration, whereby said plurality of probes are rotated from said first configuration to said second configuration by said rodent and said rodent is discouraged from reversing course as said plurality of probes are biased to return to said first configuration.

13. The rodent trap as in claim 12 wherein:

said means for positioning said metallic element includes a plurality of platform grooves spaced apart along said platform, each platform groove having a configuration for removably receiving said metallic element; and

said means for positioning said magnet includes a plurality of trip board grooves spaced apart along another portion of said trip board, each of said trip board grooves corresponding to a respective platform groove and having a configuration for removably receiving said magnet.

14. The rodent trap as in claim 12 wherein said containing means includes a

container positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said container adapted to receive said rodent when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board causing said trip board to move from said set configuration to said tripped configuration.

15. The rodent trap as in claim 14 wherein said ramp is pivotally coupled to said

bottom wall and movable between a closed configuration enabling said rodent to ascend said ramp and an open configuration for enabling user access to said container, said container being removable from said interior space when said ramp is at said open configuration.

1 16. The rodent trap as in claim 12 wherein said containing means is a glue strip
2 positioned in said interior space atop said bottom wall, said rodent being deposited onto said
3 glue strip when said weight thereof is placed on said one portion of said trip board causing
4 said trip board to move from said set configuration to said tripped configuration.

1 17. The rodent trap as in claim 12 wherein said plurality of probes each include a
2 generally arcuate tip that is slightly spaced apart from said trip board when said plurality of
3 probes are at said first configuration such that said rodent is enticed to urge said plurality of
4 probes toward said second configuration, said each arcuate tip prodding said rodent in a
5 forward direction along said trip board if said rodent attempts to reverse course.

1 18. The rodent trap as in claim 17 further comprising a stop member mounted in
2 said interior space adjacent said plurality of probes for preventing said plurality of probes
3 from rotating toward said entry opening, whereby to prevent said rodent from reversing
4 course and escaping after first engaging said plurality of probes.

1 19. The rodent trap as in claim 12 further comprising a stop member mounted in
2 said interior space adjacent said plurality of probes for preventing said plurality of probes
3 from rotating toward said entry opening, whereby to prevent said rodent from reversing
4 course and escaping after first engaging said plurality of probes.

1 20. The rodent trap as in claim 12 further comprising:
2 a side wall oppositely disposed from said ramp, said side wall having a panel that is
3 removable from said side wall so as to provide selective access to said interior
4 space;

5 a bait container removably mounted to an interior surface of said panel;
6 a front wall extending between said bottom wall and said top wall, said front wall being
7 constructed of a transparent material; and
8 wherein said top wall and said side wall define a plurality of apertures for enabling a
9 scent from said bait container to escape from said housing.